Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 01921 062116 Z

45
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NIC-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /153 W
---------- 001500
R 061740 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1442
INFO USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1921

DEPT PASS CAIRO

POUCH USINT BAGHDAD

KUWAIT POUCH ABU DHABI

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TS, LY, XF
SUBJECT: MASMOUDI ASSESSMENT CURRENT MOOD IN TRIPOLI AND
CURRENT ARAB CONCERNS

1. SUMMARY: MASMOUDI GAVE ME HIS LATEST MIDDLE EAST VIEWS
APRIL 6 FOLLOWING RETURNING FROM BENGHAZI/ TRIPOLI AND BEFORE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

OFFICIAL VISIT TO MOSCOW. HE IS WORRIED ABOUT QADHAFI' S MOOD, AND FEARED SOME " SUICIDAL" ACT. MASMOUDI ATTRIBUTES MOOD TO GROWING DESPAIR PARTLY CAUSED BY FEAR THAT U. S. AND USSR IN COLLUSION IN MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING NOW IN GULF. MASMOUDI SAYS ALL ARAB LEADERS BELIEVE THIS, BUT HE IS OBVIOUSLY OVERSTATING CASE (THOUGH HE MAY BELIEVE IT HIMSELF). MASMOUDI ALSO CONTINUES TRY TO PORTRAY QADHAFI TO US IN FAVORABLE LIGHT. END SUMMARY.

2. FONMIN MASMOUDI ASKED ME STOP BY APRIL 6 IN ORDER PASS ON HIS VIEWS FOLLOWING RECENT VISITS BENGHAZI AND TRIPOLI AND PRIOR TO HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO MOSCOW. HE SAID HE FOUND QADHAFI UNUSUALLY ANXIOUS AND REFLECTIVE, PARTLY ON CURRENT EVOLUTION WITHIN EGYPT AFTER SADAT' S GOVERNMENT CHANGES. MASMOUDI CLAIMED THAT HE FOUND QADHAFI CONCERNED THAT SADAT WAS PUSHING VERY HARD UP TO THE POINT OF MAKING ALL OUT WAR. MASMOUDI WONDERED WHETHER THIS ANXIETY COULD PUSH LIBYA TOWARD SOME KIND OF " SUICIDAL ACT". HE HAD IN MIND THE U. S. PLANE INCIDENT AND ALSO THE ITALIAN TRAWLER, WHICH HE SAID JALLUD TOLD HIM LARG THOUGHT WAS A SPY BOAT. MASMOUDI SAID HE ASKED QADHAFI WHY THE LIBYAN AIR FORCE HAD ATTACKED THE AMERICAN PLANE. QADHAFI RESPONDED MAINLY IN TERMS OF ARAB DESPAIR. QADHAFI SAID THAT NOW U. S. AND USSR SEEM TO BE IN AGREEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST. QADHAFI CHARGED THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD PUSHED IRAQ TO ATTACK KUWAIT. U. S. MUST KNOW THIS, BUT DID NOT REACT. QADHAFI WAS OBSESSED THAT U. S. AND USSR WERE CREATING ANOTHER ZONE IN PERSIAN GULF, LIKE PALESTINE, TO HUMILIATE ARABS.

3. MASMOUDI SAID THAT IMPORTANT THING IS THAT ARABS ARE SAYING THAT U. S. AND USSR IN AGREEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST AND BELIEVE IT, AND IT ADDS TO THEIR DESPAIR. HE SAID ALL ARAB LEADERS ARE BEGINNING TO BELIEVE THIS, INCLUDING THOSE OF GULF. ALLEGEDLY, FONMIN OF OMAN HAD RAISED MATTER WITH QUBOUS, SAYING THAT U. S.- USSR UNDERSTANDING IN GULF MIGHT FORCE A TURN TOWARD PEKING. ARAB LEADERS DON' T UNDERSTAND WHY U. S. SITS BACK IN GULF AND LETS SOVIETS ACT.

4. MASMOUDI RETURNED TO HIS WORRIES THAT QADHAFI - SEIZED WITH SAME DESPAIR - MIGHT BE PUSHED TO SOME SUICIDAL ACT. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT BOUMEDIENNE HAD COME TO TRIPOLI TO TRY TO CALM QADHAFI DOWN. MASMOUDI SAID THAT HE HIMSELF HAD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PRESSED FOR SLOWING DOWN ON LIBYAN UNITY WITH EGYPT. BUT

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

RECENT EVENTS WORRIED HIM EVEN MORE. HE HEARD THAT QADHAFI HAD OPEN CONFRONTATION IN DAMASCUS WITH EL ASSAD. HE ALSO CONCERNED WITH REPORTS JUST RECEIVED THAT FONMIN KIKHYA HAD RESIGNED.

5. MASMOUDI RETURNED OVER AND OVER AGAIN TO WHAT EMERGED AS PRINCIPAL THEME OF THIS DISCOURSE: THAT U. S. MUST TAKE SOME INITIATIVE IN GULF OR SOMEWHERE ELSE SO THAT ARABS WOULD NO LONGER BELIEVE U. S. AND USSR IN COLLUSION. HE KEPT INSISTING THAT ALL ARABS BELIEVE THIS, EVEN BOUTEFLIKA AND SAQQAF (I DEMURRED SAYING I BELIEVED THIS NOT TRUE IN LATTER CASE). MASMOUDI SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT THE GULF. HE REPEATED WHAT HE SAID HE HAD TRIED TO CONVEY MANY TIMES TO USG: THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THIS REGION. HE SAID HIS OWN CONVICTION WAS THAT EVERYTHING NOW GOING ON SERVES TO IMPLANT SOVIETS IN GULF. HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE SAUDIS MUST ACT STRONGLY, EVEN IF NECESSARY GOING SO FAR AS TO " OCCUPY ADEN". HE BELIEVED SAUDIS AND GULF STATES MUST REACH FIRM AGREEMENT WITH IRAN.

6. I RESPONDED THAT WE WERE INDEED CONCERNED ABOUT GULF AND WERE ACTIVE. WE WELCOMED IN PARTICULAR CLOSE IRAN- SAUDI ARABIAN COOPERATION AS BEST WAY TO ASSURE STABILITY IN REGION. FORTUNATELY, THEIR RELATIONS WERE GOOD. WE WERE ALSO WORRIED ABOUT SOVIETS, AND INDEED CONSIDER THEY HAVE STRONG FOOTHOLD IN IRAQ (MASMOUDI ADDED: AND ADEN). I ASKED HOW ARABS COULD POSSIBLY BELIEVE IN U. S.- USSR COOPERATION IN LIGHT OUR INFLUENCE AND ACTIONS IN SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, NORTH YEMEN AND GULF STATES. MASMOUDI RESPONDED ONLY THAT THERE MAY NOT BE COOPERATION, BUT SOVIETS ARE THERE AND WE GIVE IMPRESSION OF NOT WORRYING ABOUT IT.

7. CONVERSATION THEN RETURNED TO QADHAFI. MASMOUDI SAID THAT QADHAFI HAD ALSO EXPRESSED HOPES THAT U. S. WOULD TAKE SOME INITIATIVE IN MIDDLE EAST. MASMOUDI IN FACT HAD SAID SAME THING TO ME IN LAST CONVERSATION SEVERAL DAYS AGO, BUT I DID NO
E E E E E E E E

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TUNIS01921
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730436/aaaahvkv.tel
Line Count: 151
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 02 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <30-Nov-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971205
Subject: MASMOUDI ASSESSMENT CURRENT MOOD IN TRIPOLI AND CURRENT ARAB CONCERNS
TAGS: PFOR, LY, TS, XF
To: AF
ALGIERS
AMMAN
BEIRUT
JIDDA
KHARTOUM
KUWAIT

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

LONDON
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005